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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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The settlement with Microsoft is a travesty of justice. We have laws in the United States against most monopolies for a reason. Some of them have to do with freedom of choice. When Microsoft tells manufacturers that you can't put anything else on your computers if you want to have Windows on them, that removes freedom of choice from the manufacturers, and we have another word for that, extortion. Secondly, Microsoft openly states that Windows is an operating system. By definition, an operating system translates commands from programs for the computer, handling all the interfaces with the computer internals. If this is so, then Microsoft must publish all the methods to allow third parties to access these translations, otherwise it is not an operating system, but a vertical monopoly on a computer. Additionally, the idea of adding programs to an operating system is absurd, because this violates the definition of an operating system, once again using monopolistic advantage to restrict choice.

I'm sure you've read the Halloween memos by Microsoft concerning Linux. This is the mentality of Microsoft. Destroy a competitor by not allowing them to be placed on computers. eg. If Compaq wants Windows on their computers, then they can't have Linux on other computers they sell. Microsoft has apologized for the problems they have caused (to a limited extent). Seems to me if a bank robber apologized for robbing a bank, we would want more than an apology and a promise not to rob banks in the future (take a look at XP, which will not allow certain third party software to be loaded!)

Please do the right thing, and pursue the Microsoft case as it should. Microsoft does put out a decent product, though it does have its flaws, but it must play by the rules in place, the same rules that everyone else must follow.

Stephen Goertzen